

GENERAL RESEARCH AND FIELD METHODS

Phase I research consisted of two steps: 1) background and archival research, and 2) field reconnaissance. Background and archival research consisted of consultation with the staff of the Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (BAHP), review of all inventories of prehistoric and historic cultural resources maintained by the BAHP; review of historic atlases, maps, and secondary works; interviews with local landowners and experts in local history; and review of archival materials such as deeds, tax assessments, probate records, road books and petitions, and other court records. The background research for prehistoric sites included the review of the prehistoric archaeological literature on applicable predictive models (Custer 1983, 1984; Custer and Wallace 1982; Custer and DeSantis 1986;

PLATE 2

Area A Looking North, December 1986



Gardner 1978). All of the cultural resources identified by the BAHP in the Beaver Valley area are shown in Figure 7. The current status of each of these known cultural resources is given in Table 1.

Field reconnaissance for the Phase I Survey consisted of (1) a detailed pedestrian survey of the project area and surrounding area and (2) series of shovel tests along the project ROWs and in portions of the project area judged to have a high potential for prehistoric and/or historic remains. In areas of complex stratigraphic sequences or to further identify historic or prehistoric features penetrated by a shovel test, a small number of 3 X 3 foot test units were excavated as part of the Phase I Survey. All excavated soils were screened through 1/4" mesh, and test units were excavated to a sufficient depth to reach soils too old to contain artifacts.

Shovel tests were employed as the standard Phase I test unit because of their effectiveness in detecting buried cultural materials (McManamon 1981) combined with the low intensity of effort required for their excavation compared with larger, measured test units. For reference purposes, shovel tests were grouped by area and by sequence excavated within that area. Each shovel test received a letter designation identifying the project area and a number designating a transect sequence. Shovel tests within each transect were numbered in ascending order from north to south, and in area B, from east to west. Thus shovel test A-4 was the fourth shovel test excavated in Area A.

All shovel tests were excavated to a depth of at least one and one half foot. All soil was screened through 1/4 inch mesh

TABLE 1

CURRENT STATUS OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
IDENTIFIED BY THE B.A.H.P. IN THE BEAVER VALLEY AREA

Cultural Resource Name	S/A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Concrete Bridge Beaver Valley Creek Road N-4302	S										x	x
Beaver Valley Rock-shelter N-3663	A				x				x		x	x
Beaver Valley Farm House N-569	S		x	x			x				x	x
Steel Bridge Beaver Valley Creek Road N-4282	S										x	
House 800 Beaver Valley Road N-1358	S	x	x	x			x				x	x
House 701 Beaver Valley Road N-1357	S		x	x			x			x		x
House 601 Beaver Valley Road N-568	S		x	x			x			x		x

Key:

- S/A = Standing structure/Archaeological site only
 A = Appears on Rea and Price Atlas (1849)
 B = Appears on Beer's Atlas (1868)
 C = Appears on Baist's Atlas (1893)
 D = National Register
 E = National Register eligible
 F = Potentially National Register eligible
 G = Historic archaeological site
 H = Prehistoric archaeological site
 I = Not field checked
 J = Field checked by survey
 K = Out of project R.O.W.

(See Figure 7 for Locations)

and all cultural materials recovered were bagged according to individual tests. Field notes were taken for each test unit and included the thickness and type of soil horizons, color and

textural characteristics of all soils, and cultural materials recovered.

Phase II site investigation testing was carried out to determine the National Register eligibility of any sites discovered during the Phase I survey. Phase II testing consisted of the systematic excavation of 3 X 3 ft test units and measured test trenches to determine the contextual integrity and limits of the sites.